



September 22, 2014

The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of
Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pat Tiberi
United States House of
Representatives
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Engel and Representative Tiberi:

AARP is pleased to endorse your legislation, the Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act of 2014 (H.R. 5435), to provide coverage for home infusion therapy services, supplies, and equipment under Medicare Part B. Currently, Medicare Part D provides coverage for infusion drugs to beneficiaries, but not necessarily the supplies and service required to administer them.

Under your legislation, Medicare would cover intravenous therapies provided in a beneficiary's home; currently, Medicare only provides comprehensive coverage of these services when they are performed in hospitals, physicians' offices, or other institutional settings. Traveling to these sites on a regular basis is burdensome to the beneficiary, and can also increase the risk of secondary infections. Moreover, providing care in the individual's home is often less expensive than care provided in an institutional setting. Thus, expanding Medicare Part B's coverage of home infusion therapies is expected to generate savings to the Medicare program.

According to a recent Government Accountability Office report, health insurers have had a "long and positive experience" with home infusion therapy coverage in the commercial market. It is time for Medicare home infusion therapies to be brought on par with private insurers, so that beneficiaries do not lose access to these therapies when they join Medicare.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact this important bipartisan legislation. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Ariel Gonzalez of our Government Affairs staff at agonzalez@aarp.org or 202-434-3770.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs